

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated April 2, 2004. Claims 1 to 10, 40, 56, 63, 67, 74 and 80 are in the application, of which Claims 1 and 63 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the continued indication that Claims 1 to 10, 56, 63, 67 and 74 are allowed. Based on that indication, Claims 12 to 18, 42 to 55, 57 to 62, 64 to 66, 68 to 73 and 75 to 79 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and Claims 67 and 74 have been rewritten in dependent form to depend from Claim 1. In addition, the dependency of Claim 40 has been adjusted, and new dependent Claim 80 has been added.

Claims 40, 42, 43, 48 to 50, 55, 58, 59, 65, 66, 70 to 73 and 77 to 79 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 4,424,442 (Kitamura); Claims 12, 13, 18, 57, 64, 68, 69, 72, 73, 75, 76 and 79 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kitamura in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,978,977 (Ohmori); Claims 15, and 60 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kitamura in view of Ohmori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,124,962 (Kamikubo); Claims 45 52, 61 and 62 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kitamura in view of Kamikubo; Claim 14 was rejected under § 103(a) over Kitamura in view of Ohmori and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,365,259 (Kanoto); Claims 16 and 17 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kitamura in view of Ohmori and Kamikubo and further in view of Kanoto; Claims 44 and 51 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kitamura in view of Kanoto;

and Claims 46, 47, 53 and 54 were rejected under § 103(a) over Kitamura in view of Kamikubo and further in view of Kanoto. The foregoing actions have been taken without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of these rejections, but merely to secure an earlier allowance of the application.

Turning to a formal matter, consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement dated June 2, 2004 is respectfully requested.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California, office by telephone at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,



Michael K. Dufur
Attorney for Applicant

Registration No. 32622

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-2200
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

CA_MAIN 81893v1